(a) whether the Government are considering to introduce a new superfast train from Bareilly junction to Kanpur and Lucknow via Badaun Kasganj; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Air Services from Thiruvanthapuram and Calicut to Gulf Countries

752. PROF. K.V.THOMAS:
SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start new air services from Thiruvanthapuram and Calicut to Gulf Countries; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No new air service from Thiruvanthapuram is proposed to be started. The feasibility of operating air services from Calicut to Gulf countries is, however, being examined.

Celebration of Red Cross Flag Week

753. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Red Cross Flag Week was celebrated by the Indian Red Cross Society at New Delhi during first week of November, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian Red Cross Society has provided any relief works in the victims of recent earth quake in Uttarkashi areas of U.P.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b).The Indian Red Cross Society has informed that the Flag Week was held by its Delhi Branch from 1 to 7 November, 1991 in Union Territory of Delhi. The Delhi Branch distributed 1,308 donation boxes to schools, colleges, institutions and volunteers to make collections. By the end of December, 1991, all boxes will be received back at this Section and collections would be counted.

(c) and (d). The Indian Red Cross Society has provided relief to the victims of recent earthquake in Uttarkashi areas of Uttar Pradesh, the details of which are as under:-

i)	Blankets	12,745 Nos.
ii)	Woolen Garments	16,895 Nos.
iii)	Milk Powder	1,000 Kg.
iv)	High Protein Biscuits	2,000 Kg.
v)	Polythene sheeting	30 Rolls.

vi)	Tents	675 Nos.
vii)	Tea	96 Kg.
viii)	Dal	345 Kg.
ix)	Sugar	350 Kg.
x)	Atta	155 Kg.
xi)	Shoes	231 Prs.
xii)	Assorted Garments	7,470 Nos.

These supplies are valued at over Rs. 47 lakhs. Upto 16th November, 1991 the workers and volunteers of the Red Cross completed distribution of Relief materials among 13,335 affected families. Distribution of the remaining items is in progress.

Celebration of Inaugural Functions by Indian Airlines

754. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the face of mounting losses extravagant functions had been organised by the Indian Airlines coinciding with the introduction of its winter schedule on November 1, 1991;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by the Indian Airlines on these functions and for the distribution of gifts etc;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up an enquiry committee to make a thorough probe in the working of the Indian Airlines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. Simple functions were organised on limited scale at limited locations. Invitees comprised mainly of local press, leading citizens and representatives of the people.

(b) The amount involved was negligible and no amount has been spent by Indian Airlines on gifts.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The working of the Indian Airlines is monitored by the Government from time to time.

[*Translation*]

Afforestation in Himachal Pradesh

755. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for afforestation in Himachal Pradesh during the current year and the details of the targets achieved during the first six months; and

(b) the targets for afforestation fixed by the Union Government in the State Plan?